



EMGC International Tryout Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The Board of Directors acknowledge that every year offers different circumstances regarding international competition, and the Board has the discretion to modify the process as required.

This document provides basic expectations of the international tryout process.

Objective:

Identify from among available candidates, riders to comprise a team for purposes of competing in a specific IMGA championship.

Requirements to tryout:

Each rider selected through the tryout process demonstrates highly developed games skills, understanding of rules, horsemanship, interpersonal skills, and coachability. Each rider demonstrates character traits which make them excellent team members and representatives of Canada and Equine Mounted Games Canada – integrity, honesty, responsibility, respect, tolerance.

Riders participating in the tryout should possess skills commensurate with the expected level of competition. For competitions where the pony is required to participate, all ponies should have ability to endure long travel periods, stay stabled for long durations and have a level of fitness to endure 64 races in the span of 4 days. Safety of the riders and ponies participating is a key overall consideration.

To attend a tryout all riders must be members of EMGC. Each rider agrees that in the event they are asked to ride a pony they believe is above their abilities, they will disclose to the selection committee in advance of riding said pony.

IMGA rules and Code of Conduct apply to all phases of the tryout, including riders, selection committee members, volunteers, supporters and parents.

When is a tryout required?

Tryouts will occur when there are more riders than positions available for an international competition. If there are fewer riders than positions available, the riders must share their interest with the Board. The Board will work with the riders to determine if participation is possible.

When are tryouts held?

When possible, tryouts will occur in September or October to select the WTC and NTC teams for the following year. This is so teams may have adequate time to develop skills, prepare financially and give host countries the notice required for attendance. Tryout dates should avoid poor weather conditions, holidays, post-secondary exam seasons when possible.



The Selection Committee

A Selection Committee built by the Board of Directors chooses the team according to the defined structure in the bylaws. This committee may include non-members of EMGC, with a high level of mounted games experience being the primary objective.

What should I expect at a tryout?

A suitable venue for tryouts including: 1) adequate space for modified short arena races (> 80m x 40m), appropriate footing (grass, sand, sand/felt, rubber, or combination), Washrooms and Water available, Trailer accessibility and Parking

Recommended Schedule

1-month prior:

Selection Committee meets in-person to: 1) Confirm candidates and ponies, 2) Confirm Waivers and application form/fees completed, 3) Declare and plan for selection committee conflicts of interest, 4) Confirm roles and responsibilities within the selection team, 5) Confirm first aid or nearby hospital

This meeting will also include planning tryout activities and schedule including: 1) Observed warmup, 2) Briefing/questions, 3) Activities - drills, timed skill tests, practice races, mock competition races, pony care assessment, pony competency assessment (where the competition requires the use of the pony), borrowed pony races, rider interview, breaks, lunch.

2-weeks prior:

The SC will communicate the schedule, activities, criteria, and logistics to candidates (and parents of those under 16). Riders must confirm via email or remote meeting one week in advance of the tryout their attendance at the tryout and pony planned attendance to confirm logistical arrangements

Day-of-tryout:

Selection committee members convene before the tryout begins to ensure that all preparations, equipment, materials, volunteers are ready. Complete the tryout as planned, conduct brief individual rider interviews at the conclusion of the ridden activities and post-ride pony care.

Interviews provide an opportunity for: 1) Feedback on the day – What did you like about the day? Which activity was your favourite and why? What would you change about the day if you could do it again? 2) Demonstrating self-awareness – What was one success that you enjoyed today? What was a challenge to you and what did you do to succeed? What would you change, if anything, about your performance? 3) Demonstrating knowledge of rules or



competition format – specific race scenario(s) – handoff correction, reset rule, interference.

The Rider Tryout Observation form and the Rider Tryout Summary form on the Resource page may be used on the day of the tryout by the selection committee. The selection committee has the discretion to modify tryout documents as needed with Board approval. It is recommended that each committee member complete both the Rider Tryout Observation form and the Rider Tryout Summary form individually.

Selection Process

Immediately following the rider interviews at the conclusion of the tryout, the selection committee convenes privately to compare data and observations, share rider interview responses and complete an aggregate rider Observation form for each candidate. The Selection Committee members discuss the merits of each candidate, working to establish a consensus decision on team member selection.

The Selection Committee shares the results of the tryout with the Board within 24 hours of the tryout date. The Selection Committee shares the results of the tryout for each participant by phone on receipt of acknowledgement from the Board. The results of the tryout will be shared with all riders within 14 days of the tryout. The riders have 14 days to accept their position, allowing 7 days to respond following the announcement of the coach.

Riders accepting a position on the team are requested to email their acceptance to the Board and Selection Committee. Riders accepting a position on the team acknowledge they must remain a member of EMGC until the international competition year is complete.

The recommended Coach Selection Process:

Coach CVs are to be provided to a Coach Selection committee (minimum 3 people). The Coach selection committee is to be built by the Board. CVs are to be received before the tryout.

The coach is to be selected within 3 days of the riders being selected. The Coach must respond within 7 days of the team selection release.